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Envoys Pay Surprise Calls At Vatican, Warsaw Seeking Viet Nam Peace

By LEWIS GULICK

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson's peace offensive pushed ahead today in a haze of mystery surrounded the international travels of two U.S. ambassadors.

Presidential envoys W. Averell Harriman and Arthur J. Goldberg paid surprise calls at Warsaw and the Vatican, and were reported ready to carry the U.S. peace bid to other capitals before returning to America.

Goldberg, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, met for one hour Wednesday with Pope Paul VI after arriving secretly aboard a presidential jet.

He told newsmen today that Johnson shared the Pope's desire to move "this grave conflict from the battlefield to the bargaining table where ultimately it will have to be resolved."

He also described his trip as an "effort to re-emphasize the U.S. willingness to do all it can for peace" and said he would report the Pope's view only to the President.

Goldberg was to leave Rome tonight after talks with Premier Aldo Moro and other Italian officials.

He wouldn't disclose his next destination.

Roving Ambassador Harriman arrived unannounced in Warsaw aboard a U.S. Air Force jet and promptly met with Foreign Minister ADAM Rapacki.

The U.S. Embassy said Harriman, at Johnson's request, gave the Polish government Washington's views on the Viet Nam situation.

Today, he spent two hours with Communist party chief Wladyslaw Gomulka, but told newsmen only that their session included talk of the pest.

"We are old," he said, "We know each other during the war."

The U.S. Embassy announced that Harriman would leave Warsaw today, but again there was no disclosure of a destination.

Poland has relations with Communist North Viet Nam and is on the three-nation International Control Commission dealing with Viet Nam.

In Washington, informed sources expected Harriman might go on to Hungary, another third-party channel to Hanoi, and perhaps to Yugoslavia, leader of a group of nonaligned countries favoring Viet Nam negotiations.

The peace quest by the two Americans was backed by the bait since Christmas in the bombing of North Viet Nam targets and by behind-the-scenes Washington efforts to probe for any peace feelers from Hanoi.

Still, their efforts came in the face of a chilling blast from the No. 1 target, Hanoi, capital of Communist North Viet Nam.

North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh denounced "U.S. imperialist aggression" Wednesday and in a reply to a message from the Pope, declared "the U.S. leaders want war and not peace."

"The talks about unconditional negotiations made by the U.S. president," Ho charged, "are merely a maneuver to cover up his plan for war intensification and extension in Viet Nam."

U.S. diplomats rated Ho's statement, as broadcast by Radio Hanoi Wednesday as harsh, uncompromising and unchanged from his stand in the past.

Nevertheless, they refused to accept the public North Vietnamese utterance as a final response to U.S. diplomatic efforts now under way. Some U.S. sources figure that in private meetings, Hanoi might be more likely to come through with a reply which could lead to negotiations.

Johnson promised in a Dec. 9 speech to exhaust every peace effort "before other hard steps are taken."

Under the strict secrecy imposed from the White House down since the peace campaign began, the administration has refused to say why the lull in air raids on North Viet Nam has extended into a record seventh straight day.

Critics in the past — particularly in European Communist capitals — have called for a halt in the bombings to pave the way for negotiations.

Nor were those top U.S. officials who knew allowed to tell why Harriman and Goldberg showed up suddenly in Europe or where they were going next.

In Moscow, U.S. Ambassador Foy D. Kohler paid what was described as a courtesy call on the new Soviet president, Nikolai V. Podgorny. Russian party leader Alexander N. Shelepin is slated to visit Hanoi shortly. However, Washington sources declined to relate this directly to the current maneuvering over negotiations to end the war.

According to U.S. authorities, the Soviets might come to a peace conference on Viet Nam because they are less interested in pushing the conflict than their Communist rival, Red China. But they would not attend unless North Viet Nam does — and Hanoi has yet to show a willingness to negotiate.

These U.S. authorities cited that while parts of Hanoi's fourpoint proposal for a settlement, "aired Wednesday by Ho, would be negotiable, the overall effect would be to turn over South Viet Nam to the Reds. They said the United States will not accept this and nothing can be done about negotiating the individual points until North Viet Nam agrees to negotiations.

Ho's statement called for withdrawal of U.S. troops from the South — which is Washington's avowed aim following a settlement — but also demanded what U.S. diplomats said would be American endorsement of the Communist program in the South.

Meanwhile, the guerrilla combat in South Viet Nam continued and the Johnson administration was preparing for the possibility — some called it the probability — that the Reds will choose to fight on.

U.S. reconnaissance planes ranged over North Viet Nam to observe Communist movements during the lull and presumably indicate targets to be hit if the bombing resumes.

About 4,000 more jungle-trained soldiers from the U.S. 25th Infantry Division flew Wednesday from Hawaii to Pleiku, raising the American armed forces total in South Viet Nam to about 184,000.

Congressional leaders voiced little optimism that the bombing suspension would produce peace feelers from Hanoi. Some said they are afraid the Reds would use the pause to move fresh supplies to the Viet Cong guerrillas.

Senate Republican leader Everett M. Dirksen called the suspension of aerial attacks a "waiting out period" which may disclose whether there is any willingness on the part of Hanoi officials to negotiate.

Dirksen, a staunch defender in the past of President Johnson's course in Viet Nam, said in a telephone interview he has had no communication from the President or other administration officials about the bombing pause.

"We can only speculate that this pause in the bombing might produce some new peace feelers," Dirksen said. "I just hope, however, it doesn't provide the enemy with a breathing spell to regroup and gain some strategic advantages. There is always danger of that."

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield, who recently returned from a tour during which he and four colleagues discussed the Viet Nam situat on in 16 European and Asian capitals, was represented as favoring an extension of the suspension in bombing.

Mansfield, not available for direct comment, was said to have told friends he hopes the pause in attacks on North Viet Nam will continue into the Jan. 30-31 lunar new year period in which the Viet Cong has offered a truce to Both Vietnamese forces.

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Ho Chi Minh Caught In Communist Squeeze

An AP News Analysis
By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Special Correspondent

The key to success or failure of Viet Nam peace bids may rest in the fragile hands of an ancient revolutionary caught in the titanic struggle for power between the world's two Communist giants.

Ho Chi Minh at 75 has had half a century of tumultuous activity in the cause of international communism as a tactician of revolution. Today "Uncle Ho," as president of North Viet Nam, confronts a situation that may seem insoluble.

As an internationalist, Ho probably is inclined to follow Moscow's lead. But might, by mean making the best of a dangerous situation and waiting patiently for a better opportunity.

But Ho has a huge neighbor on his northern frontier: Red China. Legendary though he may be as the architect of revolution in the Orient, Ho seems captive of a majority faction of his own politburo which follows Peking's lead.

The paradoxical Ho, a poetic, mandarin-like figure who, despite his violent career always exuded a believer in the easiest and least bloody way to power, appears to be boxed in.

The pro-Chinese faction in Hanoi is headed by Truong Chinh, chairman of the North Viet Nam National Assembly. Truong Chinh's name means "long march." His original name was Dang Xuan Khu, but he changed it after taking part in the historic march of Mao's forces in the Communist war for domination of the China mainland.

The pro-Chinese faction evidently took over in Hanoi last April in a sudden shakeup of the North Vietnamese Communist hierarchy. The dominant faction evidently subscribes to the Chinese formula of violent "people's war" as the only effective road to world communism.

From time to time there had been evidence that Ho was willing to listen to some sort of formula to end the bloodletting.

Viet Nam faces the dubious choice of progressive destruction from U. S. bombing or massive influx of Chinese who could forever kill off any trace of Vietnamese independence.

But Ho does not appear to be a free agent. His current statements reflect the prattle-hard line. They also reflect the Soviet-Chinese struggle.

Moscow is sending the No. 2 man of the Soviet Communist party, Alexander N. Shelepin, to Hanoi. His mission undoubtedly is to make Soviet influence paramount. If he is successful, that could lead eventually to some sort of accommodation with the United States, since the U.S.S.R. must regard the Southeast Asia situation as highly dangerous and certainly as one which stands in the way of a Soviet ambition to build up the U.S.S.R.'s internal economy.

The Soviet thrust will not go unopposed. Red China attacks Moscow with renewed fury. The official newspaper People's Daily accuses the Russians of "behind-scenes bargaining" with the Americans on Viet Nam.

Peking has suffered serious diplomatic and political reverses in 1965. It makes clear it wants the war in Viet Nam to continue. The war offers a prospect of bleeding and weakening the United States, and it has become a club with which Peking can attempt to beat the Russians out of the camp of militant revolutionaries.

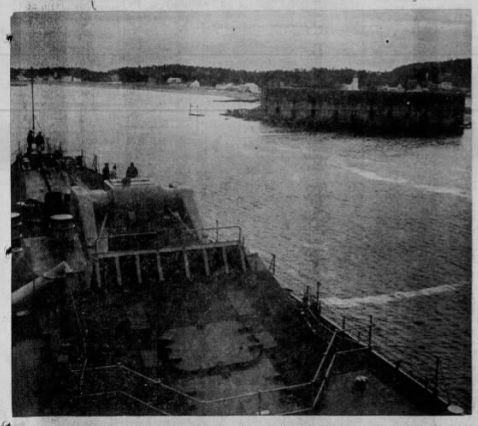
Evidently content with a longer range view of revolution which might be less dangerous to Soviet security, the Russians are promising North Viet Nam massive economic, technical and military aid which the Chinese cannot match.

As of this moment, the pro-Chinese faction apparently remains in control in Hanoi, and seems to have dominant influence over the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front. It broadcasts that its position on negotiations is "firmer than ever" because "we are stronger than ever."

The world danger in Southeast Asia is obvious, especially to a Soviet regime which could be drawn into it and into a confrontation with the Americans.

The Russians will concentrate attention on March 29, the opening of the 23rd Soviet Communist Party Congress. There, the Soviet leadership is expected to reaffirm practically every policy developed since 1956. When this happens, the break with China will be just about unbridgeable. The Russians hope to have the North Viet Nam party and most others of importance on their side in the world Communist dispute.

Then the ancient who is the father figure of revolution in the Orient, Ho Chi Minh, may be better able to come forward with some sort of offer which could end the Viet Nam shooting.



USS WAINWRIGHT LEAVING THE KENNEBEC — This is a view from the upper decks of the USS Wainwright as it passed historic Fort Popham late yesterday afternoon for delivery to the U. S. Navy in Boston. The 547 foot guided missile frigate left Bath at three o'clock and arrived in Boston six hours later. Bow employes, members of the nucleus crew and guests were treated to a rare late afternoon, mid winter river trip, a first hand look at the Navy's newest fighting ship and a spectacular night time entrance into a Boston Harbor silhouetted against a sky line, bedecked in its Christmas finery.

Living Costs Up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Living costs, rising at the fastest rate in seven years, went up another two-tenths of one per cent last month, the Labor Department said today.

Prices were higher for all major items — including housing, clothing, transportation and medical care — except food, which held steady.

The increase brought the government's consumer price index to 110.6. The figure means it cost $11.06 in November to purchase items worth $10 in the 1957-59 period on which the index is based.

The rise in typical family living costs brought the value of a 1957-59 dollar down to 90.4 cents.

Despite the record high level of the index, Deputy Commissioner Robert J. Myers of the Bureau of Labor Statistics said there was reason to hope that future price rises could be held to moderate levels.

He said the November increase marked a seasonal trend in which prices usually hold steady and that a further increase could be expected when December figures are all in.

WEATHER

Tonight cloudy and warmer with low readings in the low 30's. Winds southwest 5-10 mph. Friday cloudy and warmer. Winds southwest 10-15 mph.

Sun sets 4:49; rises Friday 7:15
High tide 5:41 this p.m.; 6:14 Friday a.m.
Day's length 8 hours, 54 minutes
Day's increase 4 minutes

Windham Seeks Pollution Ban

Windham (AP) — Legislation aimed at preventing St. Joseph's College in Standish from dumping treated sewage into portions of the Presumpscot River will be introduced in the special session of the Maine Legislature.

Rep. Alice Harvey, D-Windham, spokesman of the measure, said today the bill's purpose is to allow families to use a tributary, known as Black Brook, for drinking water.

It would forbid anyone from putting sewage into the stream. This would be accomplished by re-classifying about two miles of the Presumpscot from "B-1" to "A."

Controversy erupted last fall when about 15 families who use the brook for drinking water protested the college's plans to install a sewage plant in the area.

Last September, the Maine Water Improvement Commission granted the college a license to build the plant which would discharge treated effluent into Back Brook.

WIC engineers ruled that under the present, "B-1" classification the water is considered unsuitable for drinking and the addition of treated sewage would not change this condition.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TO PATROL COUNTY

Sagadahoc County Sheriff Robert N. Shalling announced this morning his department will have two radio-equipped patrol cars on duty in the county Friday night, New Year's Eve.

One will be on patrol in this area and the other in the northern part of the county.

Two officers will be assigned at the Rosedale dance hall on Parker's Point road for a teen dance Friday night, and an adults' dance Saturday night.

THE HYDE MANSION on High Street may become the home of a private boarding school proposed to be established here. The Bath landmark, formerly the home of a prominent Bath shipbuilder, John Holmes Hyde, in recent years has housed the Hyde Rehabilitation Center, and presently the Hyde Speech and Hearing Center. The picture shows the new wing added to south end when it was turned into a rehabilitation facility.

Private Boarding School Hopes To Locate In Bath

A private secondary school is in prospect for the Shipbuilding City.

Leonard Milligan, chairman of the City Council appointed coordinating committee for economic development, announced today that significant progress has been made in an effort to establish a privately - endowed, non - profit boarding school in Bath.

Milligan, the retiring president of the Bath Area Chamber of Commerce, said preliminary negotiations are underway to locate the proposed new school in the former Hyde Rehabilitation Center which is now occupied by the Hyde Speech and Hearing Center.

A corporation is in the process of being formed and plans call for the school to open next fall.

Milligan said the proposed facility would reactivate the now largely unused complex of buildings on the Hyde estate.

If the effort proves successful, Milligan estimated that some $500,000 a year will be added to the Bath area economy.

Milligan said representatives of the Coordinating Committee have been seeking a worthwhile use for the Hyde property, which is owned by the Pine Tree Society, for the past 10 weeks.

He revealed that exploratory thinking has reached the point that the committee is now convinced that an independent preparatory school can be established in time to open next fall.

A top private school educator has assisted the committee in its preliminary work and contact has already been made with several potential members of a board of trustees to direct the operations of the school, Milligan revealed.

As presently envisioned the school hopes to serve approximately 230 students within six or seven years, the coordinating committee chairman said.

A large percentage of the enrollment will be boarding students, but day students would be admitted on a limited basis.

Among those assisting in the preliminary work have been City Councilman William E. Haggett, Attorneys Donald A. Spear and Dunne Fitzgerald and Vice President T. Tarpe Schulten of the Canal National Bank.

Milligan reports the school will provide a four year secondary education beginning with the ninth grade and continuing through grade twelve. Initial plans call for use of buildings presently on the Hyde property, however, long range projections include utilization of Hyde's entire 170 acres.

"The group establishing this school is now forming a corporation and selecting a Board of Trustees. "Their next step will be a formal offer to the Pine Tree Society's Board of Directors to purchase the property," the chairman said.

Milligan continued:

"The Coordinating Committee has unanimously endorsed this proposal for utilization of the Hyde property and recognizes this action to be one of the most progressive moves made in the City of Bath in many years.

"The committee feels that this type of independent school with its high standards will go hand in hand with our outstanding public school system, and prove very attractive in many people who are considering living and working in the City of Bath.

"We also know the school will be an added incentive for potential employees of our leading industry which has indicated a need to attract men with specialized skills as it diversifies and expands its operation.

The committee emphasizes that one of the outstanding aspects of this plan is the Pine Tree Society's desire to integrate its headquarters in the City of Bath, and to sustain and steward its speech and hearing program in this area, Milligan declared.

"As one who has worked hard to help establish this school, I can safely say that we anticipate a great deal of work and many problems before the first class is admitted. Broad private support for this project will be necessary if the City of Bath is to have such a school. The committee is confident that support will be forthcoming."

"Looking ahead, we anticipate that this school will make a real contribution directly and indirectly toward improving education standards for all our young people and in a broader sense the school's influence will have great impact throughout our community," he concluded.

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